

USSN 09/492,462
Attorney Docket No. 016891-0807

during the Interview that Kato (U.S. Patent No. 5,289,293) does not disclose the feature of claim 1, "wherein said reduced number of lines is sandwiched between said first black area and said second black area" or similar features in independent claims 8 and 15. Applicant understands that based on this argument, the outstanding final rejection will be withdrawn. In accordance with Examiner Wu's request that a formal response to the outstanding final Office Action be filed, applicant submits the following arguments.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,289,293 to Kato et al. (hereafter "Kato"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

All of the claims require that the second picture data or frame has a reduced number of lines sandwiched between two black areas. Kato fails to disclose converted picture data that has an area with a reduced number of lines sandwiched between two black areas.

Kato discloses pixel density conversion, where the ratio of the number of white pixels to the number of black pixels may be changed (col. 18, lines 27-34). In this pixel density conversion, the total area of the black pixels (and of the white pixels) will change (see col. 1, lines 44-51). Applicant submits, however, that the black pixels in Kato are not arranged in areas so as to sandwich an area with a reduced number of lines. In other words, the black pixels are not arranged as areas on either side of an area with a reduced number of lines. Thus, Kato does not disclose converted picture data with an area having a reduced number of lines sandwiched between two black areas.

Applicants note that Fig. 11A of Kato discloses separate registers 102 and 104 for enlargement/reduction in the horizontal and vertical scanning directions, respectively. Applicant submits that this disclosure does not expressly require that the aspect ratio be

USSN 09/492,462
Attorney Docket No. 016891-0807

changed (as recited in the claims). In any event, even if the disclosure of Fig. 11A is interpreted as disclosing that the aspect ratio is changed in the conversion process of Kato, as discussed above, Kato does not disclose converted picture data with an area having a reduced number of lines sandwiched between two black areas.

For the reasons given above, applicant submits that all of the claims are patentable over Kato, and, accordingly, respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. An early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date February 3, 2003

By Thomas G. Bilodeau

FOLEY & LARDNER
Customer Number: 22428

Thomas G. Bilodeau
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,438



22428

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Telephone: (202) 672-5300

Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0741 for any such fees, and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.